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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: )

David J. Robson, et al. )

Serial No. 08/876.322 )

Filed June 16, 1997 )

IMPROVEMENTS IN OR )  
RELATING TO ABSORPTION )  
OF HYDROPHOBIC WATER- )  
IMMISCIBLE LIQUIDS )

Before the Examiner  
Ivars C. Cintins

Group Art Unit 1724

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on June 30, 1999.

Thomas Q. Henry  
Name of Registered Representative

Signature

Date of Signature

RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 30, 1999, Applicant submits the following response. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3030.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

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1. (Amended) A method of absorbing hydrophobic water-immiscible liquids comprising treating the liquid with lignocellulosic plant material which has been modified by esterification of hydroxyl groups in the lignin of the lignocellulose material such as to render [it relatively] the material more [absorbent] attractive to hydrophobic water-immiscible liquids [by esterification groups in the lignin of the lignocellulose material] while still retaining hydrogen bonding to maintain the structural integrity of the material.

P3, L6-7